

Wednesday, May 31, 2000

Duxbury Clipper

State Expert to Address Groundwater Concerns

Recent concerns about the impact of potential relaxation of Board of Health regulations concerning mounded septic systems have prompted some interested citizens to seek facts from the experts.

Those interested in hearing about groundwater protection from a state expert on the subject can attend Alexandra

Dawson's discussion at the First Parish Unitarian Church on Route 3A on Wednesday evening, June 7, at 7:30 p.m. The meeting is public and everyone is encouraged to attend.

Ms. Dawson, an attorney, is a board member of the Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commissions and serves

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on their hotline for legal questions. In addition to being known as "the mother of conservation commissions", she wrote the section on subsurface sewage disposal systems in the Massachusetts Association of Health Board's "Legal Handbook for Boards of Health".

Dawson was invited by a few concerned citizens who have become aware of the complex questions facing Town boards and officials and who firmly believe that a well-informed citizenry will be better able to understand and support the decisions representatives must make.

Duxbury is under tremendous pressure to utilize all vacant land for development of one sort or another. If the town does away with regulations that

were originally adopted to protect groundwater, some land use officials believe it will be a setback from what the town worked for in the past. With the planning board starting to look at how to revise the zoning by-law to accomplish the objectives of the Comprehensive Plan and the Board of Health re-thinking their regulations, residents can learn about the mechanisms by which the Town can prevent development of unsuitable lands which could adversely impact water quality.

Organizers of the event say the town can never take a pure water supply for granted.

Come take advantage of the opportunity to hear Ms. Dawson. If you would like to ask her a question, it may be submitted in advance to Jeanne Clark (934-5209) or Kay Foster (934-6502).